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Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Report on the meetings of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development

I. Introduction

1. At its thirtieth session, in 1997, the Commission on Population and Development authorized its Bureau to hold intersessional meetings in preparation for its sessions (see E/1997/25, para. 52). In 2006, in resolution 2006/1, on its methods of work, the Commission requested the Bureau to meet as frequently as necessary in preparation for the annual sessions of the Commission. The Commission also stressed the importance of making written reports on the intersessional meetings of the Bureau (decision 2005/2, para. (j)). In accordance with resolution 2006/1, the Bureau held three meetings between October 2009 and January 2010 and may convene others before the forty-third session of the Commission resumes in April 2010. The three meetings were held at Headquarters, in New York, on 28 October and 9 December 2009 and at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel, in Jerusalem, from 11 to 13 January 2010.

2. The first meeting of the Bureau, on 28 October 2009, was attended by Daniel Carmon (Chair), Agnieszka Klausa, Shoji Miyagawa, Lizwi Eric Nkombela and Eduardo Rios-Neto (by means of video link). Present at the second meeting, on 9 December 2009, were Mr. Carmon, Ms. Klausa, Mr. Miyagawa, Mr. Nkombela and Mr. Rios-Neto (by means of video link). The third meeting, held from 11 to 13 January, was attended by Mr. Carmon, Ms. Klausa, Mr. Miyagawa and Mr. Rios-Neto. Also present at the third meeting was Zane Dangor, Chief Operations Officer of the Department of Social Development of the Republic of South Africa, participating as an observer. The Director of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, other staff of the Division and a representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) were present at all meetings of the Bureau.

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3. The present report summarizes the discussions of the Bureau at those meetings as well as the conclusions reached and the recommendations made.

II. Summary of the deliberations of the Bureau

A. Organization of work for the forty-third session of the Commission

4. The Bureau reviewed the organization of work for the forty-third session and had no comment on it.

B. Keynote speakers

5. At its thirty-eighth session, in its decision 2005/2, the Commission welcomed the format of inviting keynote speakers to the sessions of the Commission and requested the Bureau to make the necessary arrangements for their participation and to inform member States accordingly. In accordance with that decision, the Bureau, after discussing the issue, decided that three keynote speakers would be invited to address the Commission on the special theme "Health, morbidity, mortality and development" and that each speaker would be allotted an hour in which to make a presentation and engage in an interactive dialogue with members of the Commission. The Bureau selected Edward Bos, Carissa Etienne and Barry Popkin as keynote speakers. Mr. Bos, Lead Population Specialist of the World Bank, would be invited to speak on "Population trends, health outcomes and development". Ms. Etienne, Assistant Director-General for Health Systems and Services of the World Health Organization, would be asked to speak on "Strengthening health systems to address current and future challenges in public health". Mr. Popkin, Carla Smith Chamblee Distinguished Professor of Global Nutrition of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, would speak on "Global economic and health change: problems and solutions". As has become customary, the Bureau recommended that the working group be adjourned during the presentations made by keynote speakers.

C. Participation of relevant United Nations entities in the Commission on Population and Development

6. The Bureau noted that the topic of the forty-third session was relevant for a number of United Nations entities, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the United Nations University, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization. Thus, the Bureau requested the Chair of the Commission to encourage relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to participate in the Commission's session and to invite them to consider organizing side events during the session. As it had with regard to other sessions of the Commission, the Bureau welcomed the involvement of UNFPA in organizing a side event for the forty-third session.

D. Communication of the Chair with other members of the Commission

7. The Bureau requested its Chair to write to all other members of the Commission underscoring the need to include technical representatives, namely, specialists in the areas of population, public health and policy, in their delegations for the forty-third session. The letter would also provide guidance to members of the Commission regarding the items under which statements could be made, and would outline the relevance of the various items on the provisional agenda for the forty-third session. Information about how to gain access to preliminary versions of the documents for the session would be included. In addition, the letter would outline the proposals made by the Bureau to ensure that the Commission could make a substantive contribution to the 2010 annual ministerial review to be conducted by the Economic and Social Council, whose theme would be "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women".

E. Contributions of the Commission to the review of progress made towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

8. The members of the Bureau noted that the Commission was in a very good position to make a contribution to the process under way aimed at the review of progress made in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and to suggest ways in which to accelerate that progress on the basis of the thorough review that the Commission had conducted during its forty-second session, whose theme had been "The contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals". In particular, resolution 2009/1, adopted by consensus at the forty-second session, provided useful guidance on the way ahead, and the documents submitted to the Commission provided the substantive basis on which to act.

9. The Bureau then considered how best to ensure that the outcome of the forty-second session of the Commission would be reflected in the processes leading to the high-level plenary meeting to be held by the General Assembly in September 2010, as well as in the meeting itself and its outcome. The Bureau recognized that it had the responsibility to raise awareness among key stakeholders about the provisions of resolution 2009/1 and about the substantive basis for the recommendations set out in it and their relevance to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. To that end, the Bureau requested the Chair to send a letter to the President of the General Assembly summarizing the key recommendations made by the Commission and requesting that the letter be circulated as an official document to all Member States. In addition, the Bureau suggested that the Chair meet with the President of the General Assembly to discuss the various ways in which the Commission might support the process leading to the high-level plenary meeting and that the Chair meet with the Secretary-General to brief him on the relevance of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular those related to the empowerment of women, and to the reduction of maternal and child mortality. The Bureau also saw merit in trying to engage the media.

10. Members of the Bureau decided to take the responsibility for raising awareness among their respective regional groups about the relevance of the Programme of Action to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and to work to ensure that the importance of the Programme of Action would be acknowledged by those taking part in the round tables on "Addressing the challenge of poverty, hunger and gender equality", and on "Meeting the goals of health and education", which were planned as part of the high-level plenary meeting.

11. In order to ensure continuity in the process of raising awareness about the contributions of the Commission's work to the Millennium Development Goal process, the Bureau suggested that the next Bureau of the Commission (i.e., that elected for the forty-fourth session) meet with it within a month after the closing of the session so that the new Bureau could be briefed about the initiatives being pursued by the current Bureau.

F. The commemoration of the International Conference on Population and Development

12. The Bureau noted that, on 12 October 2009, during the commemoration by the General Assembly of the fifteenth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Chair of the Commission had presented a statement highlighting the role that had been played by the Commission as the preparatory body for the 1994 Conference and underscoring the Commission's role as the intergovernmental body entrusted with reviewing and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference.

13. The Bureau remarked that in 2014, the 20-year period established for the achievement of the full implementation of the Programme of Action adopted at the Conference would come to a close. Members of the Bureau observed that there had been many changes in population trends and prospects since 1994 and that, in view of the new development challenges facing the international community, it might be advisable to conduct a major review of the implementation of the Programme of Action in the coming years and to launch a process whereby it could be updated or replaced. They acknowledged that such a decision would have to take into account the outcome of the 2010 high-level plenary meeting on the Millennium Development Goals and the expectation that the Goals would be achieved by 2015. In view of those considerations, the Bureau recommended that the Commission include in the agenda of its forty-fourth session a new item for general debate, namely, the future of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

G. Relationship of the Commission on Population and Development with the Economic and Social Council

14. The Bureau noted that the Chairs of both the forty-second and the forty-third sessions of the Commission supported the initiative of the Population Division to organize a round-table breakfast in support of the annual ministerial review conducted by the Economic and Social Council. The round-table breakfast was held in Geneva on 8 July 2009 and focused on "The implications of population ageing for global public health". The breakfast was co-chaired by the representatives of

Mexico and Israel. The event was well attended and helped to highlight the relevance of the work of the Commission to the promotion of global public health.

15. The Bureau then discussed some of the possible contributions that the Commission could make to the annual ministerial review, which in 2010 would focus on "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women". The Programme of Action was a key document guiding action to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women, which topics figured prominently in all deliberations of the Commission. Consequently, there was merit in increasing the synergies between the Commission's work and the annual ministerial review. To that end, the Bureau suggested inviting the Permanent Representatives of those Member States planning to make national presentations at the annual ministerial review to join the Commission during the general debate on the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2010 (item 6 of the provisional agenda for the forty-third session) so that they could engage in an interactive dialogue highlighting the relevance of the Programme of Action to the empowerment of women.

16. In addition, the Bureau suggested that the Population Division prepare country-specific fact sheets for those Member States making national presentations at the annual ministerial review, in order to assist them in the preparation of those presentations. The fact sheets would focus on areas covered by the Programme of Action and would be sent to the Permanent Representatives of the relevant Member States by the Chair of the Commission with an accompanying letter.

17. The Bureau next focused on the relevance of the Development Cooperation Forum to the Commission on Population and Development, noting that, at its forty-second session, the Commission had taken note of the revised estimates of the funding needed to implement the costed portion of the Programme of Action, which had been submitted to the Commission in document E/CN.9/2009/5. Making Member States aware of those revised cost estimates was considered important. The Bureau therefore requested that the Chair of the Commission deliver a statement on that issue to the Development Cooperation Forum.

18. The Bureau was informed about the meeting to be convened in New York on 29 January 2010 between the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council and the Chairs of the functional commissions in order to discuss the various ways in which the commissions might contribute to the annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum. The Chair said that he would inform the Bureau of the Council about the proposals made by the Bureau of the Commission regarding the review and the Forum.

H. Special themes for future sessions of the Commission

19. The Bureau recalled the Commission's decision 2009/101, in which it decided that the special theme for its forty-fourth session, in 2011, would be "Fertility, reproductive health and development". The Bureau noted the need to establish a multi-year work programme for the Commission and discussed various themes that might be considered in 2012 and beyond. In doing so, the Bureau took into account the calendar of events and activities planned by other relevant bodies of the United Nations, especially the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

The Bureau also considered the themes that the Commission had addressed in the past. The Bureau noted that in 2013, the General Assembly would hold a second high-level dialogue on international migration and development and concluded that focusing on that issue in 2012 would make a valuable and timely contribution to the preparations for that event. The Bureau therefore recommended that the theme for the Commission's forty-fifth session, in 2012, be "International migration and development".

20. The Bureau also considered how the Commission could prepare for a major review, in 2014, of the implementation of the Programme of Action. After considering several options, the Bureau recommended that the forty-sixth session, in 2013, focus on "The role of national action, international cooperation and partnerships in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development". The consideration of that theme would ensure that a key part of the Programme of Action essential for its implementation would be addressed in preparation for a major review and assessment of the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action. Although the Bureau acknowledged that the Commission had thus far selected themes only two years in advance, it considered that establishing a longer work programme would make it easier for the Commission to discuss, in 2011, plans for the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Conference and the future of the Programme of Action.

I. Resolutions and decisions

21. The Bureau recommended that the Commission consider adopting the following resolutions or decisions: (a) a decision on the provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session; (b) a decision on the themes for its forty-fifth and forty-sixth sessions, in 2012 and 2013, respectively; and (c) a resolution on the special theme of the forty-third session, namely, "Health, morbidity, mortality and development".

22. As for previous sessions, the Bureau recommended that a working group be established at the start of the resumed forty-third session of the Commission to discuss issues that might result in resolutions or decisions. The working group should begin its work on the afternoon of the first day of the resumed session of the Commission. The Bureau also recommended that the Chair of the Commission distribute initial drafts of resolutions and decisions to facilitate the deliberations of the working group. The Bureau further requested that the Chair's drafts be made available to other members of the Commission and the regional groups three weeks prior to the resumption of the forty-third session of the Commission.

J. Briefing for members of the Commission

23. The Bureau recommended that the Director of the Population Division organize, approximately one month prior to the resumption of the forty-third session, a briefing for delegations on the status of the documentation for the session, the organization of work and the resolutions and decisions likely to be considered by the Commission.

24. The Bureau stressed the importance of the timely availability of documents for the forty-third session in facilitating the preparation of statements by delegations.

The Bureau endorsed the posting on the Internet of unedited advance versions of those documents in English.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

25. **The Bureau recommended the adoption of the draft organization of work for the forty-third session of the Commission.**

26. **The Bureau decided that three keynote speakers would be invited to address the Commission on the special theme "Health, morbidity, mortality and development".**

27. **The Bureau recommended that the special theme for 2012 be "International migration and development" and that the special theme for 2013 be "The role of national action, international cooperation and partnerships in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development".**

28. **The Bureau recommended that a working group be established at the start of the resumed forty-third session of the Commission to discuss issues that might result in resolutions or decisions. The working group should begin its work on the afternoon of the first day of the resumed session of the Commission.**

29. **The Bureau recommended that the Commission consider adopting the following: (a) a decision on the provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session; (b) a decision on the themes for the forty-fifth session, in 2012, and the forty-sixth session, in 2013; and (c) a resolution on the special theme of the forty-third session, namely, "Health, morbidity, mortality and development".**

30. **The Bureau recommended that the Commission include in the provisional agenda for its forty-fourth session a new item for general debate, namely, the future of the Programme of Action of the Conference.**

31. **The Bureau requested that the Chair of the Commission distribute initial drafts of resolutions and decisions that might facilitate the deliberations of the working group. The Bureau requested that the Chair's drafts be made available to other members of the Commission and to the regional groups three weeks prior to the resumption of the forty-third session of the Commission.**

32. **The Bureau recommended that the Director of the Population Division organize, one month prior to the resumption of the forty-third session of the Commission, a briefing for delegations on the status of the documentation for the session, the organization of work and the resolutions and decisions likely to be considered by the Commission.**

33. **The Bureau decided to invite the President of the Economic and Social Council to address the Commission under item 6 of the provisional agenda for the forty-third session and to invite the Permanent Representatives of those Member States making national presentations at the annual ministerial review to be held in 2010 to participate in an interactive dialogue on the relevance of the Programme of Action to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, which would be held under the same item.**

34. **The Bureau suggested that the Chair of the Commission make a statement at the Development Cooperation Forum to be conducted by the Economic and Social Council in 2010, in order to raise awareness about the revised cost estimates related to the implementation of the costed portion of the Programme of Action.**

35. **The Bureau decided that the Chair of the Commission would send to the President of the General Assembly a letter highlighting the relevance of the Programme of Action to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and request that it be distributed as an official document to Member States.**

36. **The Bureau suggested that the Chair meet with the President of the General Assembly to discuss the various ways in which the Commission might support the process leading to the 2010 high-level plenary meeting, as well as with the Secretary-General to brief him on the relevance of the implementation of the Programme of Action to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular those related to the empowerment of women, the reduction of child and maternal mortality and the control of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.**

37. **In order to ensure continuity in the process of raising awareness about the contributions of the Commission's work to the Millennium Development Goal process, the Bureau suggested that the next Bureau of the Commission (i.e., that elected for the forty-fourth session) meet with it within a month after the closing of the session so that the new Bureau might be briefed about the initiatives being pursued by the current Bureau.**